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AN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE NIGERIAN STATE.

The Nigerian state is a colonial creation, the pre-colonial period is the period before the coming of colonists to Nigeria, while the colonial period is the era that colonial administration was established in Nigeria. Nigeria is a product of a historical arrangement that arose out of the European adventure with its eventual culmination in the colonization of Africa, pre-colonial Nigeria comprises of different independent chiefdoms, states, kingdoms and empires. Among others consists of the Borno Empire, the Hausa States, and the Sokoto Caliphate in the North; the Igbo segmentary societies in the East; Benin Kingdom and the Oyo Empire in the West and several ethnic identities in the Benue Valley.

These ethnic groupings vary in many ways; historically, socially, culturally etc. The Country is bordered to the South by the Bights of Benin and Biafra, on the West she's bordered by Benin, on the North she's bordered by Niger and East by Cameroon.

The exact time when man began to live in Nigeria is unknown but there are archaeological evidences from different parts of Nigeria which pointed to the fact that man had settled in the region now known as Nigeria since the Paleolithic period 500,000-9000BC, artifacts found there were mostly stones, tools found by archaeologists further confirmed that Nigerians also took part in the stone-age civilization. The stone age can be divided into several periods. These are; Early Stone Age, 3,000,000-35,000BC; Middle Stone Age, 35,000-15,000BC and Late Stone Age, 15,000-500BC.

The man who lived in Nigeria during those years worked hard to cope with his environment. First, he needed food. Due to this need he began to hunt animals and to gather fruits. Later on he began to invent tools, he made tools for both cutting and chopping. Archaeologists called the tools the Olodowan-type tool, because it was the first tool to be discovered by them. These tools were made in the Early Stone Age but were later refined in the Middle Stone Age and Late Stone Age.

YORUBA HISTORY

The Yoruba's are one the largest ethnic group in Nigeria and are united by language. The Yoruba people trace their origin to Oduduwa who was the founder of the Yoruba Kingdom. Ile-Ife is regarded as the ancestral home of the Yoruba's. There is a story of their migration from the East, it was said that they moved from the North-East, leading them to their final stop that is Ile-Ife. Oduduwa is said to be their first leader. The Oke Oranfe version was that it was believed

that the earth was full of water at a certain time, God then sent his servants, which included Obatala or Orisa- Nla and sixteen oye (immortals) who were each given objects with which the world was created. They were given five pieces of iron, a lump of earth tied to a white cloth and a cockerel. On their way Obatala got drunk with palm wine. Oduduwa seized the symbol of authority from him and eventually led the others to the world.

POLITICAL SYSTEM IN YORUBA.

The political structures of the Yoruba Kingdoms were similar in nature. Each consist of their own capital, town, community, villages and farmlands. Each of these had their own Kingdom who was being ruled by their own King “Aafin”, his Paraphernalia of office consists of a beaded crown (ADE), slippers (BATA), horse tail (IRUKERE), and scepter (ASE). The King “OBA” is known for being the head of the Village for both spiritually and politically.

IGBO HISTORY

The Igbo people known for their acephalous way of life because they had no centralized state. According to the Nri Version, the ancestors of Igbo Eri descended from the sky and sailed down River Anambra. When he arrived at Aguleri, he met some autochthonous group of people who had no living memory of their own and finally settled with me.

Political Structure in Igbo Land is, they have no centralized state and they practice decentralized system of government. They have Institutions who perform legislative and executive functions and they include age group, family, secret societies and council group consisting of elders.

HAUSA HISTORY.

Hausa land is located at the Northern part of Nigeria, before 1804 Hausa land was consisting of four state, they were two distinct groups. The first group consisted of Seven States known popularly as “HAUSA BAKWAI “. That is Hausa legitimate states. The second consisted of the seven remaining states known as “HAUSA BANZA” states, that is Hausa illegitimate states. Hausa Bakwai are:

- Daura
- Biram
- Zaria
- Katstina
- Kano
- Rano
- Gobir

While the Hausa Banza are;

- Nupe
- Gwari
- Bauchi
- Kebbi

- Zamfara
- Kebbi

The origin of Hausa started from the man known as Bayajidda an Arab prince who travelled to Sahuel, he killed the snake that was disturbing the people of Daura he later married the queen who already had 6 sons she later produced 1 with Bayajidda, each of them ruled the 7 Hausa states becoming the first king of each

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION OF NIGERIA.

The British who have often been credited with the creation of Nigeria were not actually the first Europeans to the land in Nigeria. The Portuguese were the first Europeans. The trans-Atlantic slavery was then abolished in the 19th century.

THE BIRTH OF NIGERIA AS A GEO-POLITICAL ENTRY.

Before 1900, all the parts of Nigeria conquered by the British were still under their original administration. But by 1900, the whole Nigeria was under the responsibility of the British Colonial Rule. The May 1906 amalgamation is known to be the first amalgamation of the British in Nigeria they amalgamated Lagos

The second amalgamation was that of 1914 January the British amalgamated the Southern and Northern Nigeria.